

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6978

FOR DSAA/ISA/SA

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, XX, RP

SUBJ: MAAG REQUIREMENT STUDY

REF: STATE 119079

1. REFTEL ASKS CHIEF OF MISSION "IN COUNTRIES WHERE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES MAAG OR EQUIVALENT SHOULD BE RETAINED" TO JUSTIFY THE RETENTION OF THEIR MAAGS. MESSAGE DOES NOT RPT NOT CLARIFY, HOWEVER, WHAT LEGISLATIVE OR OTHER CONDITIONS WILL BE IMPOSED UPON THE MISSION WITH RESPECT TO END-USE CHECKS, MILITARY SALES ARRANGEMENTS, ETC., IF MAAGS ARE TO BE ABOLISHED. IN ORDER TO ANSWER DEPARTMENT INTELLIGENTLY, AMBASSADORS WILL NEED TO KNOW WHETHER ANY RELIEF CAN BE ANTICIPATED FROM THESE VARIOUS WASHINGTON REQUIREMENTS.

2. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE CASE OF THE PHILIPPINES, THERE HAVE BEEN
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REPEATED SUGGESTIONS FROM GOP THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO ABOLISH

THE MAAG, ESTABLISH A PHILIPPINE ARMS MISSION IN WASHINGTON, AND HANDLE THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROGRAM, FROM THAT END. SINCE JUSMAG/PHILIPPINES NO LONGER PROVIDES ADVISORY SERVICES TO THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES OR CONCERNS ITTLF WITH OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES, SUCH A SHIFT WOULD TECHNICALLY BE FEASIBLE IF WASHINGTON IS WILLING TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT WE WILL HAVE LESS KNOWLEDGE OF END-USE, LESS CONTROL OVER CAPRICIOUS ACQUISITIONS, AND LESS SURVEILLANCE OVER POSSIBLY CHICANERY. WE COULD PRESUMABLY MAINTAIN A LOWER LEVEL OF OVERSIGHT BY THE ATTACHMENT OF A THREE-MAN MILITARY MISSION TO THE EMBASSY, AND, IN THE LONG RUN, NOTHING MUCH MIGHT BE DIFFERENT THAN THE CURRENT PROJECTION.

3. WE ARE ENTERING INTO BASE NAEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT CLOSE ON THE HEELS OF SIMILAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN, TURKEY, AND GREECE, IN WHICH MULTI-YEAR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN UNDERPINNING THE BASING ARRANGEMENTS ULTIMATELY DEVELOPED. IT IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT THE GOP WILL FOLLOW THESE MODELS AND SEEK FROM US A SUBSTANTIAL MULTI-YEAR MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMITMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR THE OPERATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL TERMS WE SEEK TO PRESERVE IN A NEW BASES AGREEMENT. SECRETARY HAS INDICATED TO THEM THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WILL BE CONSIDERED.

4. IN THE EXPECTATION THAT WE WILL BE REQUIRED TO DELIVER TO THE GOP IN SOME FASHION A MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AT LEAST AS LARGE, PROBABLY LARGER, THAN THE CURRENT PROGRAM (ABOUT \$20 MILLION GRANT AND \$15 MILLION CREDIT ANNUALLY), WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A REQUIREMENT TO PERFORM WHATEVER OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY WASHINGTON DEMANDS. OUR OBLIGATION IN THIS REGARD COULD BE AN INITIAL COMMITMENT OF FIVE YEARS WITH A PROSPECT FOR FURTHER EXTENSIONS TO PRESERVE OUR ONGOING INTERESTS AT THE BASES.

5. IF MAAG IS NOT RPT NOT TO BE PRESERVED IN ITS PRESENT INSTITUTIONAL FORM, IT WILL BE NECESSARY IN THE FORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES EITHER TO MODIFY THE OVERSIGHT REQUIREMENTS, OR ELSE TO DEVELOP A NEW CONTROL SYSTEM.

6. IF STATE AND DEFENSE ARE PREPARED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT ANTICIPATED LEGISLATIVE AND BUREUCRATIC REQUIREMENTS, WE CAN BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES CITED IN PARA CONFIDENTIAL

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3 REFTEL. IF THERE IS TO BE NO RPT NO RELIEF FROM CURRENT OVERSIGHT AND END-USE REQUIREMENTS, RETENTION OF A MAAG IN MANILA HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING INEVITABLE AND THE DISADVANTAGE OF BEING LESS THAN WELCOMED BY THE GOP. IF THE REQUIREMENTS ARE WAIVED, THE ABOLITION OF THE MAAG WOULD HAVE THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGE OF ACCOMMODATING GOP EXPRESSED DESIRES, WITH THE DISADVANTAGES CITED IN PARA 2.
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